

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A thin film magnetic head comprising at least one writing element, said writing element including a first magnetic film, a second magnetic film, a gap film, a coil film and third magnetic films,  
  
said first magnetic film including a first pole piece,  
  
said second magnetic film including a second pole piece,  
  
said gap film being located between said first pole piece and said second pole piece,  
  
said first magnetic film and said second magnetic film being magnetically combined at a joint as viewed backward from said first pole piece and said second pole piece,  
  
said coil film winding vertically around said joint,  
  
said third magnetic films being disposed at both sides of said first pole piece or said second pole piece by a given distance.
2. (Original) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein said distance is set within 1.5-6  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. (Original) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein said third magnetic films are disposed between a medium opposing surface and an outermost coil turn of said coil film.
4. (Original) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein said third magnetic films are so disposed as to cover said coil film.
5. (Original) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein said third magnetic films are divided.

6. (Currently Amended) The thin film magnetic head as defined in ~~any one of claims 4-5~~ Claim 1, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

7. (Currently Amended) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ Claim 1 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

8. (Original) A magnetic recording/reproducing device comprising a magnetic head device as defined in claim 7 and a magnetic recording medium to be magnetically written and read with cooperated with said magnetic head device.

9. (New) The thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 2, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

10. (New) The thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 3, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

11. (New) The thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 4, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

12. (New) The thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 5, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

13. (New) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 2 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

14. (New) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 3 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

15. (New) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 4 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

16. (New) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 5 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

17. (New) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in Claim 6 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.